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FTA News

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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URGE U.S. ACT ON PRICES; CURB FOOD PROFIT HOGS

BREAK THE FOOD TRUST

Meeting on the eve of the national CIO convention, FTA's executive officers worked out a people's program to break the monopoly stranglehold on the nation's food supply and cut the inflated cost of eating. This is the full text of the plan, which is being presented to the CIO Convention this month for consideration.

Daily and almost hourly increases in the cost of living, particularly the cost of food, are bringing workers and other low income people to the edge of disaster.

Workers in low paid industries, such as those represented by FTA-CIO, are unable to buy enough to keep up even a minimum standard of living. Children of these workers are going to bed hungry, even though their parents are employed. The misery of the unemployed can only be left to the imagination.

Wage increases won by unions since V-J Day have been wiped out. Workers and their families are today worse off than before the war.

Food prices are being inflated by the food trusts and the commodity speculators. The working farmers are not getting sky-high prices for their produce. The false claim that wages are responsible can no longer be maintained by even those most reactionary defenders of big business.

The food trusts and speculators must be curbed at once and their power over living standards permanently ended. We urge the following program of action now to bring down the cost of food by eliminating profiteering:

1. The President of the United States must declare a state of national emergency and must call a special session of Congress to restore price control with prices at levels of May, 1946, as a first step.

Price control must be administered by workers, farmers and consumers, without industry or speculator representation as in the past.

2. Commodity markets in all foods must be taken over by the U. S. Government and operated without profit to food speculators or corporations. Basic food processing industries must be regulated by the government in order to guarantee parity prices and cost of production on all produce to the farmers and to guarantee

(Continued on Page 7)

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME
BUTTER
OR A
ROAST OF BEEF
Well, here's why OPA ceilings make them hard to get—
OPA MEANS LOW PRODUCTION
LOW PRODUCTION MEANS BLACK MARKETS
BLACK MARKETS MEAN NEEDLESSLY HIGH PRICES
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS
For a Better Tomorrow for Everybody

One year ago this Natl. Association of Manufacturers ad promised low prices on butter and beef after price control was killed. Congress obeyed NMA's voice, killed OPA. Today prices of butter, beef are too high for workers to afford. All other prices are at all time highs. Had enough of lies and swindling from NAM and its agents in Congress?

BUILD A PEOPLE'S PARTY

Real aim of independent labor political action is to build "a political party based on the people's needs and operated solely in their interests," FTA's executive officers said in urging greater political activity on the part of all workers, CIO and AFL alike. Text of the resolution, to be submitted to the CIO Convention in Boston this month, follows:

The Taft-Hartley act, the destruction of the wage hour act, the killing of price and rent control and the giving of huge tax benefits to corporations were the work of a Republican-Democratic alliance in the 80th Congress.

This coalition also prevented action on the people's needs by its refusal to act on housing, health, education and the anti-lynching bill, the polltax and discrimination in employment.

Monopoly power and control over basic industries has become the main problem facing the American people today. Efforts to solve the problems growing out of monopoly power through the futile "trust-busting" of the past have admittedly failed.

The Democratic administration has at best offered only token resistance to the drive toward inflation, lower living standards and the curtailment of labor's right to organize and of all civil rights.

Using the mask of a bi-partisan foreign policy, Congress and the administration have endangered the peaceful cooperation of the great powers necessary for the preservation of peace and for the reconstruction of the world.

The record of both Republican and Democratic party leaders in Congress and in the administration, and in the state governments as well, shows that the workers can have no confidence in either party as a means of obtaining benefits for the American people.

This condition was made clear in the failure of the Truman administration to mobilize sufficient Senate votes to uphold the veto of the Taft-Hartley act, and in the almost unanimous votes of Senate and House Republicans for final passage of the act.

In passing this law, and in other votes and the failure to act on needed legislation, both Republican and Democratic party leaders stand

(Continued on Page 7)

FROM WASHINGTON

'GRASS ROOTS' RARIN' TO GO

By ELIZABETH SASULY

Returning from two months' work with FTA locals from the west coast east to Chicago, I would like to report one most important fact you won't find in the employer owned press: our members are ready for political action today where things were lagging a year ago. This is true not only of FTA members, but of union members generally.

But the job is still to be done, so I would like to take up some of the problems which must be overcome if we are to move into high gear.

First is the fact that no matter how ready and eager people are, the essential requirement for success is assignment of responsible leaders in each local to organize and carry through the program. You can't collect dollars or build ward and precinct organization unless your local is organized to do the job.

Here are some of the questions which need answering as the organization gets rolling:

When does the Taft-Hartley act begin to hit us? In the three and a half months since the law was passed, employers have not yet used all the anti-labor devices it contains, and some people have asked if the slave labor law is really as bad as they have been told. In addition to knowing what's in the law, it is important to understand the bosses' strategy to answer this question.

First, the authors of the law and the employers for whom they stooge are anxious to keep the big lie—that the Taft-Hartley law is really a blessing in disguise—rolling through the 1948 election campaign. We can expect a tendency not to crack down hard in the next months in order to lull us into a sense of false security and so put a wet blanket on political action.

Then there is the all important fact that employers can make best use of the law when contracts approach expiration and new ones are being negotiated. This is the breathing spell we have in which to consolidate in the plants and organize our forces for political action. It is certain that wherever there is a weak spot in a union, the employers will move when a contract runs out.

Another reason for delay in using Taft-Hartley procedures in FTA industries is that this group—among the greediest in American industry—does not want to risk losing a penny of its outrageous profits through the strikes and action of the workers which would follow their cracking down.

Finally it should be remembered that the law HAS been used: Damage suits have been filed against unions, including FTA, going even beyond the provisions of the Taft-Hartley act in some cases; charges of unfair labor practices by unions have been filed; and the Taft-Hartley Board has already obtained at least one injunction against a union.

Are the members ready to contribute to PAC? The most significant lesson I have learned in meeting with our locals during these past weeks is that the rank and file members of our union are ready and eager to contribute as soon as they understand that the dollar contribution is a down payment on throwing out of office those responsible for Taft-Hartley, for 90 cent butter and for lack of action by Congress and state legislatures to meet the people's needs.

If any leader is hesitant about going to the membership with the facts and the program because he thinks the members "won't go for it," I am sure he will find that the members are ahead of him when he takes the issues to them.

Are we satisfied with what we've got? There have been some few labor leaders (not in FTA, we can note with satisfaction) who think twice about getting into action because they have the notion that the rank and file are "satisfied" to have jobs and just ride out the present "boom" even though they can't make ends meet. They figure the workers must "learn through hunger" when the "bust" comes.

These people will have to face the anger of their membership if they do not lead the way now on immediate problems and prepare for the future by uniting locals to gain more strength in the plants and take the plunge into politics. 1948 is the year of decision and 1947 is the time to prepare for it. Later will be too late.

Because the first job we must complete is the PAC dollar drive, I urge the leaders and members of every local to check the following list of Dollar Drive pointers:

1) If your dollar collection is not yet completed, are books in the hands of your shop stewards and have you had stewards meetings to set a schedule for completion of the job?

2) Have you organized plant gate demonstrations with stewards on hand to collect at lunch time and schift changes? For big plants or concentration of small plants, have you tried sound trucks in such demonstrations?

3) In amalgamated locals, have there been meetings of each plant and in large plants have there been department meetings?

4) Have you set up competitions between departments, divisions of locals, individual stewards or on any other basis to reward those who do the best job on the dollar drive?

THAT'S GRATITUDE!

One of the first AFL top shots to announce that his union would file the affidavits required by the new National Labor Relations Board under the Taft-Hartley act was Joe Ryan, "permanent" president of the AFL's Intl. Longshoremen's Association.

Ryan was very happy to tell the world that he was no "communist" and that no one in his union was either. The ILA, said Ryan, would cheerfully swear to anything the Taft-Hartley act required—all in the best interests of the membership, of course. (Strangely enough, the ILA rank and file was not consulted when the decision was announced.)

Now the members of the ILA are the first victims of the Taft-Hartley act their leader so warmly welcomed after it was passed. A judge in upstate New York has granted the employer an injunction forbidding the ILA members in Albany, N. Y., from striking. This is the first injunction issued under the slave labor act—but far from the last. That's gratitude for you!

Chairman of President Truman's new Citizens Food Committee, which is now playing Little Sir Echo to Taft's "eat less" advice, is one Charles Luckman, $300,000 a year president of the Lever Bros. Soap Co. Three days after his appointment, Lever Bros. raised the price of shortening (Spry) and soap (Lux, Lifebuoy) 10 percent. Somehow this has a familiar smell—and it ain't just B.O.

* * *

NAM News, slick publication of the Natl. Association of Manufacturers, ran a poll the other day to find out how many people had heard of the organization. Reports NAM News with great satisfaction: "As a result of NAM's campaign against price controls the Association has become better known." Some people, as the polecat remarked, will do anything to get in the public eye—including spitting in same.

* * *

Speaking of polls, here's another one from Dr. Gallup, the man who knows your most secret thoughts without even asking you: "Support For Labor Law Increases" (meaning the Taft-Hartley act) was what the headline said. The first paragraph of the story read this way: "Organized labor's compaign to revise or repeal the Taft-Hartley act continues to have considerable support from the American public." Dr. Gallup's headlines and Dr. Gallup's lead paragraphs should get together.

* * *

Latest conspirator in the gigantic red plot to overthrow America is—you'll never guess—the Ladies Home Journal Congressman Rankin of the un-American Committee is the man who found out, just in time to save us. Seems the Journal ran a piece by Mrs. Roosevelt, which was enough for Rankin to say: "Mrs. Roosevelt certainly doesn't represent the better element in writing communist propaganda in the Ladies Home Journal." Watch out there, you reds on the Saturday Evening Post—you may be next!

* * *

". . . He is not exceptionally bright . . . many of him would be selfish and lazy . . . distinctly on the dumb side . . . this dumbness . . . the dumb average citizen . . . too stupid to know . . . bovine, sluggish, no account loafers . . . stupid enough . . . getting more slovenly, frivolous and greedy every day . . ." Who is this mystery man? Mortimer Snerd? No, friends, he's the American worker, according to Westbrook Pegler, in his column for October 1, 1947, appearing in about 200 newspapers. For further details, see your daily paper.

* * *

Biggest lie of the year comes from the fat boys who blame labor for not producing enough. Fact is that labor productivity (output per worker) is up 25 percent since the war, will have increased from five to 10 percent more in 1947 over 1946. Those are government figures, son.

* * *

Want to know what the Republican party's secret weapon is—the thing they hope will win the '48 election? It's nothing more nor less than an all-out attack on "communism." Little or nothing will be said about prices, nothing about housing, health, jim crow, etc.—but every speaker will hammer away at "communism." Taft and other GOP planners hope American workers and farmers will fall for it.

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FTA Local 19's steering committee meets with FTA PAC Director Elizabeth Sasuly in Memphis, Tenn., to plan independent political action in Boss Crump's own bailiwick. From left they are: Phil Emory, Clint Turner, Floyd McDaniel, John Mack Dyson, Karol Korstad, Sasuly, Roy Catchings and Wash O'Bannon, Jr.

HOLD FIRST COTTON OIL PARLEY, ASK WAGE FLOOR, OVERTIME PAY

By Larry Larsen

Cottonseed oil workers in the first industry-wide conference in history worked out a program of common contract demands, an industrywide organizational plan, and discussed overall methods of improving working conditions when they met at Memphis, Tenn., recently.

The meeting was attended by FTA President Donald Henderson and Research Director Joseph Califf and by some 40 delegates representing 30 plants organized by FTA-CIO in the Mississippi Delta region.

Foremost among the contract demands was the decision to win overtime pay for work over eight hours in any one day and 40 hours in any one week. Many cottonseed oil workers now have to work 72 and 84 hours a week at straight time; however, in the plants with which FTA has contracts we have been able to make some companies pay overtime and have won a vacation plan, paid holidays, seniority and other benefits. Wages in FTA plants in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana have increased anywhere from 50 to 90 per cent.

As late as 1940-41 these plants were paying 35 cents to 40 cents an hour. The present minima in all of the plants are 65 cents, 75 cents and 80 cents. Job classifications have been secured ranking as high as $1.35 an hour.

We have made the greatest progress in the Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., where we have been successful in organizing over half of the mills and setting up a Buckeye Council. We were able to do away with the wage-hour law exemption and establish overtime, six paid holidays, one and two weeks vacation, job classification and double time for work on the seventh consecutive day.

Henderson pointed out the tremendous task which lies ahead. He also clarified the present war scare and redbaiting which are sweeping this country. He gave for an example the strike at the Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, during which the un-American Committee set out to "investigate" the leadership of FTA Local 22, charging them with communist actviities which, of course, completely fizzled out. This is only a weapon which monopoly capital and big business have been using ever since the beginning of organized labor to weaken and destroy unity within the labor movement, Henderson said.

"We have a fight on our hands to organize and strengthen our union, to defeat the reactionary congressmen and senators in Washington who are responsible for the high cost of living and the Taft-Hartley slave labor bill, and to get the maximum unity between CIO, AFL and Brotherhood so that jointly we can eventually fight the reactionary forces that are trying to strangle the American people," Henderson said.

"Our job is to come out of this meeting with a realistic program on contracts, organization and methods of solving some of the industrial problems which we are facing now."

Henderson discussed the Taft-Hartley Act which he stated was written and enacted by Congress on order of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce—a bill designed to smash organized labor.

A report presented by the FTA Research Department showed that the cottonseed oil workers worked the longest hours of any industry in the country. It showed further that wages are the lowest in the country, in spite of the fact that six companies, which control over 42 percent of the industry, increased their profits during 1946-47 from 111.2 percent to as much as 757.6 percent. Some of the companies made as much as 30 cents on every dollar invested.

This report also showed that there are 30,000 workers in the cottonseed oil industry. But the most staggering blow recorded in this report was the income of 38 key executive officers who drew a total of $2,210,712 in compensation from one of the companies. This would be enough to employ 1,635 workers at 65 cents an hour, 40 hours a week for a full year!

Unanimously approved recommendations by the three committees included:

1. Steps to protect cotton oil workers' health and safety conditions, which are extremely poor in many plants.

2. An all-out fight against the mounting speedup, now being stepped up in all cotton oil plants.

3. Wiping out of the present wage hour act exemptions which force workers to toil up to 80 hours a week without overtime pay. In line with this, locals will press for a longer season to end the present three to four month season of backbreaking work at long hours.

4. Seventy-five cents an hour to be taken as the absolute minimum wage scale, in line with FTA national policy plans.

On organizing, the conference called for a drive to sign up independent and chain company plants, plus local organizing in areas near already organized plants and a general tightening up in plants where FTA has contracts.

Warning

Hatchmen At Work On Wage-Hour Act

The hatchetmen are at work again on the Wage Hour act, trying to rob millions of workers in FTA industries of its already inadequate benefits.

Fronting for the bosses in some of the most notoriously underpaid industries in the U. S. is the House Labor Committee, which has just finished a tour of the country and which went through the motions of holding hearings on the act last spring.

Next move in the new campaign to take hundreds of thousands of workers, mainly in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries out from under the act begins this month, when hearings on exemptions and coverage will be held in Washington.

Proposals made to date that mainly affect FTA workers center around cotton gins and ice plants. Here the plan is simple—declare all such workers in the "area of production" and thus automatically exclude them from the meager benefits of the act.

The proposal to shut out cotton gin workers was made by Representative H. D. Larcade (D., La.), an insurance agent and former banker. Larcade's plan, however, does not go far enough to suit the Cotton Compress and Warehouse Assn., which wants all cotton producing and processing counties to be declared in the "area of production." This would pull the Wage Hour rug out from under all cotton processing workers.

Meanwhile, the American Assn. of Ice Industries has proposed a three months exemption from overtime pay requirements for all ice plants. This closely affects FTA organized workers in fresh fruit and vegetable packing industries, where many icehouse workers are members of FTA. Such a move would be a wedge for still greater exemptions in these plants, affecting all workers.

Both Republican and reactionary Democratic leaders have the same general plan—to still further gut the Wage Hour act by narrowing its application to fewer and fewer workers. Representative Graham A. Barden (D., N.C.), is a leading minority member of the committee, working hand in glove with the Republicans. Barden was the sponsor of a grandiose plan, defeated in 1940, to wipe out the act as far as 3,000,000 food processing and related workers were concerned.

Republican election strategy is plain. On the one hand, they work day and night to deprive more and more workers of the benefits of the act. When an irreducible minimum has been reached, they will then come forward with a bill to increase the pay floor from 40 cents to perhaps 65 or even 75 cents. Thus they will be able to pose as the champions of the underpaid—while saving the employers millions of dollars rightly due the workers.

Midwest Council Marks Growth

By Sol Newman

With the presentation of gifts by Regional Director Warren G. Horie to Sally Sullivan, president of the FTA joint council of DWG Cigar Corp. employes; J. A. Williams, regional secretary-treasurer and member of Local 297, Toledo, O., and to Leo La Croix, president of Local 74, Ellsworth, Mich., the regional council meeting for this state, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky, marked the continuing success of the region's fight against the anti-labor secessionists in Ohio and Michigan. The gifts, billfolds suitably embossed, were small tokens of appreciation to these loyal members for their efforts in behalf of FTA.

The Region also noted its growing strength through consolidation by devoting most of the sessions to PAC. Resolutions unanimously passed stressed independent political action leading to the formation of a mass people's party should the existing major political parties continue to thwart the legitimate aspirations of labor and the common man; urged President Truman to call a special session of Congress now to restore price and rent controls at May, 1946 levels; demanded the end of the withholding tax on incomes of $2600 and less for family providers and on $1500 for single men and women by raising exemptions to those annual totals; condemned the sales tax, anti-labor laws, national and state, and the persecution of foreign born labor leaders.

The unity of the region expressed in resolutions and discussion, according to veteran FTA members here, has never been as high and the way is cleared, in their opinion, to further consolidation of the membership and to the launching of a successful campaign to organize many of the unorganized shops which come under FTA jurisdiction.

The report of the political action committee also stressed the fact that hundreds of thousands of Americans were seriously considering the program being advocated by former vice-president of the United States, Henry Agar Walalce.

The delegates were extremely bitter over the rising cost of living and the taxation burden their membership continues to carry. Lloyd McEwen, Local 30 president, Fremont, Mich., showed a pay check from which $9 and change was deducted for taxes.

150 Pact Sets New High

In signing its third contract with the United States Tobacco Company for its Nashville Branch, Local 150, FTA-CIO, won a 10 cent an hour across the board increase in wages, a third week of vacation with pay for all workers with 15 or more years in the plant, removal of discriminatory wage classifications, and verbal agreement on the institution of a company sponsored group health and life insurance plan.

The 10 cent increase upped the minimum hourly rate for all labor to 85 cents per hour and now ranks amongst the highest in the Nashville area. The wage increases affect approximately 200 workers in the plant here and will add $45,000-$50,000 to pay-checks in the next year. In the next vacation period, at least 75 workers will receive the added week.

Including gains in the new contract, workers at U. S. Tobacco here have won more than $200,00 in wages and other benefits since they organized into FTA and have upped the minimum wage from 48 cents to 85 cents per hour.

This marked the first contract negotiated since passage of the Taft-Hartley Law and the brothers and sisters out at U. S. learned once more that strength is the common denominator in negotiations. With a strong, active union inside the plant, company officials were quite willing to sit down and bargain.

Sister Clara Yaney and Brothers James Pate, Mose Cross, Alonzo Trabue, Elmer Tomlin and Walter Elliott negotiated the contract, assisted by Sid Fishman, local organizer.

Seated fourth from left and surrounded by tobacco, cannery, food processing and cemetery workers from Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky, is Sam Sage, secretary-treasurer of the Detroit CIO who was main speaker at a banquet staged in between sessions of the regular fall meeting of the FTA Midwest Council. Sam has been a tower of strength to FTA by helping local officers and international representatives solve many of the pressing organizational problems in the area.

Only the rich are eating this stuff—called "steak"—nowadays, but maybe even they will have to think twice when it hits $1.25 a pound, as it will unless government regulates the meat trust.

In the Locals

495 TO BYPASS NLRB

By Alex Berg, Reporter

Supporting the position of the FTA Executive Board, Local 495 at its regular membership meeting, voted to endorse the FTA policy of bypassing the Taft-Hartley NLRB.

Citing attempts of the Peter Cooper glue and gelatin plant to violate their agreement on adjustment of wage inequalities and job bidding, the membership decided to set up stewards classes for all stewards and officers of the local to safeguard the contract.

Discussion on the Taft-Hartley law and Political Action was conducted by Regional Director Paul Gardner.

Oil Workers Get 10c Raise

Five hundred Buckeye Cotton Oil workers in Memphis, Tenn. won a 10c per hour increase across the board and an 80c minimum in negotiations recently. The new contract gives the members of Local 19 their third wage increase sinve V-J Day, and a total of 25c per hour, even though they continue on the wartime 48 hour schedule.

The new contract was signed for two years with an opening in 12 months on wages, hours, vacations and holidays which gives the union the right to strike if a mutually acceptable agreement on these matters is not reached by November 28 of next year.

It further provides a voluntary, irrevocable check-off of dues and an agreement by the company that it will not hold the union legally responsible for wild cat strikes, if the union proves its good faith by attempting to end such unauthorized stoppages.

The contract continues last year's gains of six paid holidays with double time pay if worked and a one week's vacation with 52 hours pay after one year and a two weeks vacation with 104 hours pay after three years.

Last year's contract was won after a 12 day strike by the workers in Memphis, Corinth, Mississippi and Montgomery, Alabama. Contracts in these other plants, as well as the contract for the workers in Charlotte, N. C., are now being negotiated.

Price Probe 'Fraud' FTA

"All the investigating under the sun will never lower the cost of living by one dime, unless it is followed up by action," FTA President Donald Henderson said in commenting on the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report holding hearings on the cost of living in the Philadelphia area.

"Food profiteers and rent gouging landlords don't fear such a feeble weapon as Senator Flanders' Committee. The only thing they fear is a real attempt to put price control back in effect, plus stringent Federal action to stop speculation in food.

"The Congressional investigation so far has been a fraud and a waste of the taxpayers' money. It has been used in a desperate effort to cover up the real cause of inflation—which is monopoly profits. Any American worker's wife can tell Congress what's happened to the cost of living and what needs to be done about it. And the answer isn't in any Taft-Truman program of eating less or so-called voluntary rationing.

"It's up to the American housewife to tell her Congressmen and President Truman to restore price control, regulate commodity markets and take away the economic and political power of the food trust over the lives of 140,000,000 people."

"A special session of Congress must be called at once to accomplish these ends."

Northwest Fights T-H

By Kenneth Smith

The Taft-Hartley act and how to defeat it was the subject of a full day's discussion at the Northwest Regional Council meeting held in Portland, Oregon on September 6 and 7.

Under FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly and Regional Director Wendell Phillips, the delegates split into two panels to prepare reports on Political Action and on the T-H law, which provided the basis for lively discussion when the general session reconvened.

Everyone agreed that this bill is nothing but an attempt to enslave the workers, break the unions and take away our constitutional rights as American citizens. The delegates unanimously adopted the resolution passed at FTA's National Policy Conference, and pledged to get behind political action with all the strength they can muster.

Crack Overtime In DeSoto

Following the program laid down by the cotton oil conference, workers at the DeSoto Oil Company, Memphis, Tenn., broke through the overtime exemptions allowed the industry by the Fair Labor Standards Act and agreed on a contract which provides time and one half for all work over eight hours in any one day and 40 hours in any one week.

They further won a four cents per hour increase across the board and a 74c minimum. The total increase amounted to 10 cents an hour, since the plant operates on a 48 hour weekly schedule and the added overtime will amount to slightly over six cents per hour.

Like the contract won by the Buckeye workers three days earlier the DeSoto agreement provides for six paid holidays, a voluntary irrevocable check-off, and a no liability clause in the event of unauthorized walkouts. The DeSoto vacation plan gives workers with one year seniority one week vacation with forty hours pay and workers with two years seniority a two week vacation with 80 hours pay.

Joe Gearing, unit chairman, Phil Emory, Eugene Lanier, and Will Williams were the members of the negotiating committee.

50% OF BOSSES CHEAT ON PAY

More than half the 40,350 employers examined during the last fiscal year were found to be violating the wage-hour or public contracts acts, William R. McComb, administrator of both acts for the Labor Dept., said Sept. 12.

He reported 20, 570 violations were turned up during the year's inspections, and at that Labor Dept. agents were able to inspect but 7% of the establishments covered by the two acts. Budget cuts by the 80th Congress will probably result in a lower proportion of inspections this year.

Some 14,000 employers of those visited, or more than a third, made "substantial violations of the record-keeping regulations under the wage-hour act." Outright falsification of records was turned up in 199 cases.

Total gypping by the bosses caught in the act was more than $18 million in wages illegally withheld from 311,000 workers, an average of about $60 per worker. There were 14,000 employers who had not paid overtime at time-and-a-half under the wage-hour law, 2,700 who did not pay the 40c minimum wage, and 185 who violated the child labor provisions of the public contracts law.

Win $1.27 Top

Members of Local 61 won a 12c an hour wage increase retroactive to July 1, at five Detroit cemeteries recently. Top rate for the 115 workers who received the increase is now $1.27 an hour.

On the negotiating committee were W. Nycklewicz, Harold Smith, Albert Draft, Walter Burke and Peter Lagrone, assisted by Thomas R. McNulty, FTA Organizer.

Cemeteries covered by the increase were Holy Cross, Holy Sepulchre, Evergreen, Roseland Park and Forest Lawn.

236 Signs 3rd Contract

Beating the Taft-Hartley law deadline, Local 236 signed its third contract with the Hawthorne Mellody milk condensery in Whitewater, Wis., continuing the union shop and establishing the highest wage rates for the industry in Wisconsin.

Newly elected officers of the Local are: George West, president; Erwin Castle, financial secretary; Clayton Brown, vice-president; Raymond Trewyan, recording secretary; Lawrence Hopp, treasurer; Chester Traxler, corresponding secretary; Lawrence Buening, sergeant-at-arms; Ralph Wiukigson, Walter Jack and Mike Fardy, trustees.

Chief Steward is Robert Grahler. Stewards are Robert Grahler; Dale Denio, Phil Schmaling, Harry Schmidt and Gerhardt Zelle.

2,000 AT 78's PICNIC

Over 2,000 members and their families came from far and wide to attend Local 78's third annual Labor Day barbecue at Sherwood Park in Salinas, California.

The Day's festivities included baseball, bingo, and other sports, with plenty of ice cream for the kids.

These members of FTA Local 166, Marshalltown, Ia., turned out to discuss political action and the need for repealing the Taft-Hartley act. Local 166 reports its members are 100 percent paid up on CIO-PAC donations.

100% For PAC

By Mrs. Leo Stegman

Members of Local 166 held a special meeting and had as their guest speaker Elizabeth Sasuly, FTA representative from Washington. She spoke on union activities and on the Taft-Hartley law. All members contributed to CIO-PAC and also contributed to the Southern drive for organization of unions.

Local 166 has been in the CIO for 11 or 12 years. During that time we have had several increases in pay, vacations with pay, and pay for the six main holidays.

Local 166 has a sick benefit and death benefit fund which is all very welcome and helps considerably. We hold meetings once a month, house parties, dinners and dances, and have quite a social time. I might add if we didn't have a union we would not get along so well. We hope we continue to be members for as many more years, and that we all can repeal this Taft-Hartley law.

280 SIGNS NEW PACTS

A new contract signed by Local 280 with the Copper County Cheese Cooperative in Dollar Bay, Wis., brought a seven cent an hour wage raise to production and maintenance employees; a $25 bonus to every worker and a $15 a month increase for clerical workers.

The cooperative agreed to pay one-half the costs of a hospitalization plan for all employees, according to Slyvio Guisfredi, president of Local 280.

The Mailman Brings . . .

Dear Editor:

This is the way we feel about the Taft-Hartley Act:

'Twas just a dream, and as a dream
I'll tell it now to you
'Twas about the darn Taft-Hartley bill
And perchance it may come true.

On the spite boys fell an atom bomb
While they were in a huddle.
Their souls went soaring down and down
Their awful sins to cuddle.

"Come in," said Satan, "Welcome, boys
I knew you soon would come;
The Hitler boys were my greatest catch,
But you are number one.

"We are giving you a dance tonight,
As this is your final goal.
You can depend, it will be hot—
The unions sent the coal.

"The music will be the cries of men
On earth—women, children, too.
And this should please the wicked ears
Of men with souls like you."

Fraternally,
Jennie Stiver,
Charter Member Local 55
1308 Central Ave.,
Middletown, Ohio.

CURB FOOD TRUST, CUT PROFITS—FTA

The members of FTA-CIO are facing the most severe crisis in their experience. They simply cannot provide an adequate living for themselves and their families at today's living costs.

Like other workers, especially those in the lower paid industries, the major part of our members' budgets must go for food, and it is precisely here that our people have been hit hardest.

These figures are taken from five issues of the Camden, N. J., Courier—two in August, 1939, two in June, 1946—the last full month of price control—and the fifth in September, 1947. They can be duplicated all over the country.

In August, 1938, a pound of coffee cost eighteen cents. In June, 1946, it cost twenty nine cents. Today, the same brand of coffee costs forty one cents.

A can of pork and beans cost six cents in 1939; eleven cents in June, 1946 and a smaller can costs twelve cents today.

A can of peas cost six cents in 1939; twelve cents in June, 1946, nineteen cents today.

Beef liver was seventeen cents in 1939; today it costs fifty nine cents per pound.

Similarly ground beef—hamburger—was fifteen cents a pound in 1939; today it costs forty three cents a pound and is going up daily.

Bread was eight cents a loaf in 1939. Today bread is fifteen cents a loaf, and the big bakers are clamoring for another increase.

These are only a few items. Note that they are all basic foods. Not one of them is in Senator Taft's "luxury" class. Nobody in our union eats steaks. Urging them to eat less—as both Senatof Taft and some Democratic leaders are doing—is superfluous. They already are eating less simply because they can't afford to eat otherwise.

I am referring to employed workers. The plight of the unemployed can only be left to the imagination. Under present prices, and under present unemployment benefits, they can scarcely eat at all.

The workers in the Campbell Soup plant in Camden, N. J., have average gross earnings of about $52.00 for a 40 hour week, before taxes. Our latest contract with the company, signed in June, brought the workers a nine percent wage raise. With the 18.6 percent rise in living costs admitted by the U. S. Consumer Price Index, it is easy to see that Campbell Soup workers are worse off now than they were before the wage increase. Without it, of course, they would be even further in the hole.

FTA has organized many cigar workers. National average earnings for cigar workers were $32.14 a week in June, 1947. This is an increase of 86c a week over June, 1946. In terms of real wages—that is, in terms of the purchasing power of today's paycheck—the cigar workers have received a wage cut of $4.00 a week since June, 1946.

The 18 percent rise in the cost of living since June, 1946 has taken the sum of $459 out of the average worker's pocket. To put it another way, the destruction of price control in 1946 has reduced the average worker's wage of $49.37 a week to $41.87 a week.

Note that these are figures for average workers. Many hundreds of thousands of workers in low paid industries—such as food and tobacco processing—receive considerably less than the national average. Negro workers, who are always employed in the least skilled and worst paid jobs, are particularly victimized by the rise in the cost of food.

The defenders of big business in both major political parties and in the press have tried to make much of recent wage increases as a factor in price increases. These gentlemen overlook several points in their accusations against labor. One is the fact that real wages have declined since June, 1946, when price control was destroyed.

Average earnings in all manufacturing industry were $49.37 a week in June, 1947 but when you convert the 1947 paycheck into 1939 purchasing power, the average earnings of manufacturing workers fall to $29.97 a week in June, 1947. This is for a worker with three dependents, and is figured after taxes, which is the way corporation profits are always figured—by the corporations.

Another fact pointing to the sheer greed of the corporations is also conveniently overlooked. This is the fact that food prices were increased 18½ times more than justified by wage increases one year after V-J Day. According to U. S. Government figures, a price rise of only 1.3 percent was needed to offset wage increases won by September, 1946, over wartime peaks. But profiteering corporations raised prices by 24 percent during the same period—18½ times more than was needed to cover wage increases.

Where has the difference gone? What has happened to the $459.00 filched from the worker's pocket between June, 1946 and June, 1947? Who got the money?

The answer lies in the figures on corporation profits.

In 1946 American corporations made 12½ billion dollars in profits after taxes. These were the highest in history, and were 3½ billion dollars above 1945 profits.

A report prepared by the President's Council of Economic Advisers released in July, 1947, showed that profits after taxes in the first six months of 1947 were running at the annual rate of 17½ billion dollars. This is almost double the 1942-45 wartime rate of 9½ billion dollars.

The National City Bank of New York published figures showing that 25 food processing companies increased net profits 49.4 percent in the first six months of 1947 over the same period in 1946.

One of the most accurate ways of measuring profit is by comparing it with net worth. This shows how much profit the given company is making per dollar of invested capital. In 1946, the A&P made 17c on every dollar of invested capital—after taxes.

According to the National City Bank, the average return for 2,958 corporations in 1947 was 9.5 percent. National City Bank figures for 451 leading corporations for the first half of 1947 show an annual return on net worth of 16.6 percent.

In other words, corporations are now making 16.6 cents clear profit on every dollar of capital. This is more than double the pre-war rate of 7.8% shown by studies made by OPA.

Still another way of showing what has happened to the people's purchasing power since the war is to figure out the share of the national income that goes to wage and salary earners. Such figures are published by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Note that these figures include all salary and wage earners. Betty Grable, whose legs brought her close to $500,000 last year, goes into the average with Joe cannery worker. So does the salary of Mr. Vincent Riggio, president of the American Tobacco Co., who got $285,669.

In the period 1936 to 1939, wage and salary earners received 62.1 percent as their share of the national income. In 1945 wages and salaries were 63.0% of the national income. But in 1946 the share of the wage and salary earners fell to 61.2 percent, and for the first six months of this year it was down to 59.2 percent.

There is no lack of food production. In fact, there has been a glut in some lines — a glut caused by the inability of customers to buy the product at inflated prices. The citrus canning industry in Florida, for example, declared a "holiday" on production earlier this season, because housewives could not pay the prices demanded for the finished product. Fruit was left to rot in the fields, not because workers would not produce, but because employers did not want to produce.

There are no real shortages of essential foods. The only real shortage that exists is a shortage of purchasing power in the pockets of consumers, and that is because so much of the national income is being drained off into profits.

1. We call on the President of the United States to declare a state of national emergency exists, brought about by the inflation in the cost of living.

2. We urge that a special session of Congress be called at once, and that Congress restore price and rent control with prices and rents at levels of May, 1946, the last full month of their operation before they were scuttled by Congress.

Price control must be administered by workers, farmers and consumers, without representation of speculators and middlemen as in the past.

3. The U. S. government should regulate commodity markets and exchanges in all basic foods, and should guarantee that farmers receive fair prices for all produce and that consumers are enabled to buy food at reasonable prices.

4. As a means of bringing fair prices to farmers and consumers, we urge state, county and municipal governments to help in setting up direct farmer to consumer markets, where food can be sold without profit to speculators or middlemen. This has already been done with success in Newark, N. J., and in San Francisco, California.

5. Subsidies paid out of increased taxes on corporations and big incomes must be used wherever needed to roll back the cost of living. Such subsidies must be paid to the small farmer, not to big corporation growers who have no need of them.

6. So-called surplus food must be used to feed hungry people. Destruction of crops must end. No crop can be considered surplus while hungry people are in need of it.

7. Jail sentences must be handed out to violators of anti-trust laws and those found guilty of conspiracy to raise the cost of living. Fines are not enough.

8. Rationing of essential foods must be restored to prevent hoarding and to strengthen price control.

Finally, we must realize that food is something for hungry people to eat, not just a commodity for speculators and industrialists to profit from.

Herbert Kling, president of FTA Local 80 and Regional Director for the mid-Atlantic states, told Congressional price hearings in Trenton, N.J., that FTA members are today "facing the most severe crisis in their experience" due to the fantastic heights the cost of food has reached.

Speaking for 20,000 FTA members in the area — whose experience is matched by that of FTA members everywhere — Kling told the Senators and Congressmen that the food trusts "must be curbed, profits cut, and the necessities of life put within the reach of all."

Food Prices at All-Time High

194 IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY DRIVE

By Elizabeth Wroton

With FTA Local 194's active help, the Progressive Party of Chicago and its slate of 21 candidates for Judges of the Superior Court of Cook County is now on the ballot for the November 4 election.

121,000 signatures of registered voters were secured in the biggest petition ever filed with the Election Commission in Chicago. Over 1,300 of these signatures came from Local 194 — which was pretty good, considering that that is just about the number of members we figured we had registered at that time.

The 21 lawyers on the Progressive Party slate—comprising top labor lawyers (one of whom is Ben Meyers, Local 194's own lawyer), Negro, Polish, Italian—are all outstanding, genuine progressives, pledged to fight against injunction rule, restrictive covenants and Jim Crowism on the Superior Court Bench.

This is a direct challenge to the corrupt machine-controlled elections rigged for the past 22 years by the Democrats and Republicans in their joint slate of corporation lawyers, where the voters have no choice.

The fact that these are the courts to which the big companies go to get injunctions against mass picketing, etc., puts the fight for the Progressive Party candidates right in line with the whole fight against Taft-Hartleyism.

Another major element in the campaign is the fight for adequate representation for the Negro people who comprise one-tenth of Chicago's population.

Local 194 this past week was able to make a special contribution to the over-all political campaign in Chicago. Faced with the 10-12 and 14 hour day at Campbell Soup Plant during tomato season, it was obvious that the workers there — over half of whom we estimate are not registered—would not be able to get down to the Registration Office at City Hall between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. when it was open. Therefore, John Gallacher, president and Elizabeth Wroton, PAC director, discussed this matter with Mayor Kennelly and the election commission and secured their agreement to keep the registration office open until 9 p.m. all this week.

Local 194 has been making every effort to take advantage of this victory, putting out leaflets explaining the extension of the hours and stewards have been checking on the registration status of the workers in their departments. As a wind-up, Local 194 plans to have a bus at the plant gates on Monday, October 6th, the last day of registration, to take any workers who are still not registered down to City Hall to register.

The next phase of the campaign will be ward and precinct work to get out the vote for the Progressive Party candidates on Election Day, November 4th. This is just now getting organized and Local 194 expects to play its part along with the other unions.

PAC contributions this year have so far come to $958. An excellent job was done by Henry Gistover, chief shop steward who collected $113 himself and by Josephine Chlupsa, chief steward of women who together with the other women stewards on her floor collected $200. Carrie Avery on the night shift and a number of other stewards also did outstanding jobs.

However, the tomato season during which the drive took place hampered the work of a number of stewards in a number of key departments. Therefore, plans were laid with the help of Sister Sasuly for conducting a one week's intensive drive after tomato season is over especially concentrtating on those departments and among those stewards where collections have been low.

One of the best jobs of the campaign was done by Jimmy Spraags, Chairman of the King Cole Division of Local 194, who collected the PAC Dollar from over half of the workers in his plant, many of whom had just been called back to work for the brittle season, after being laid off all summer. "Is it something to help the union, Jimmy?" they asked. "If so, here's my dollar."

FTA's Midwest Council plugged FTA and other progressive union literature with this display at its recent conference in Detroit. "Who's un-American," seen at end of table, was a best seller. Pamphlet tells full story of Congress un-American Activities Committee, how it uses redbaiters, spies, finks and stools to take money out of your pocket. Have YOU read it? Order now from FTA-CIO, 20th & Race, Philadelphia 3, Pa. 10c a copy.

'TB'—BORN OF POVERTY, SLUMS

By Physicians Forum

The greatest killer of men and women in the prime of life, from about 20 to 40, is tuberculosis of the lungs. Despite our great progress in reducing the scourge of tuberculosis, it still takes off tens of thousands unnecessarily every year and ranks as the seventh leading cause of death for the whole population.

A few weeks ago we discussed how tuberculosis, which once carried off people of all classes almost in epidemics, is now principally a disease of the poor. The well-to-do have protected themselves against it by good housing, proper diets, adequate rest, and efficient medical care. The poverty and insufficient medical care among Negro people explains why tuberculosis kills them at three or four times the rate among white people. What can be done about it?

Tuberculosis is not a hereditary disease and it is not incurable. It is a contagious disease, spread from person to person, mostly by coughing. Its spread can be readily prevented by removing the afflicted individual from contact with his family and associates. The best way is to put him in a sanatorium. The patient not only protects his family and friends in this way, but he assures himself the best chance of cure as rapidly as possible.

So the only sure way of nipping it in the bud is to find tuberculosis in people before they're even conscious of any symptoms. The chest X-ray is the way. With new miniature-picture X-ray machines—which can take a shot in a few seconds at the cost of a small Hershey bar—thousands of workers in a factory can be screened for tubreculosis in a day. Everybody in the community can be examined periodically, most often those whose working or living conditions make them especially liable to the disease.

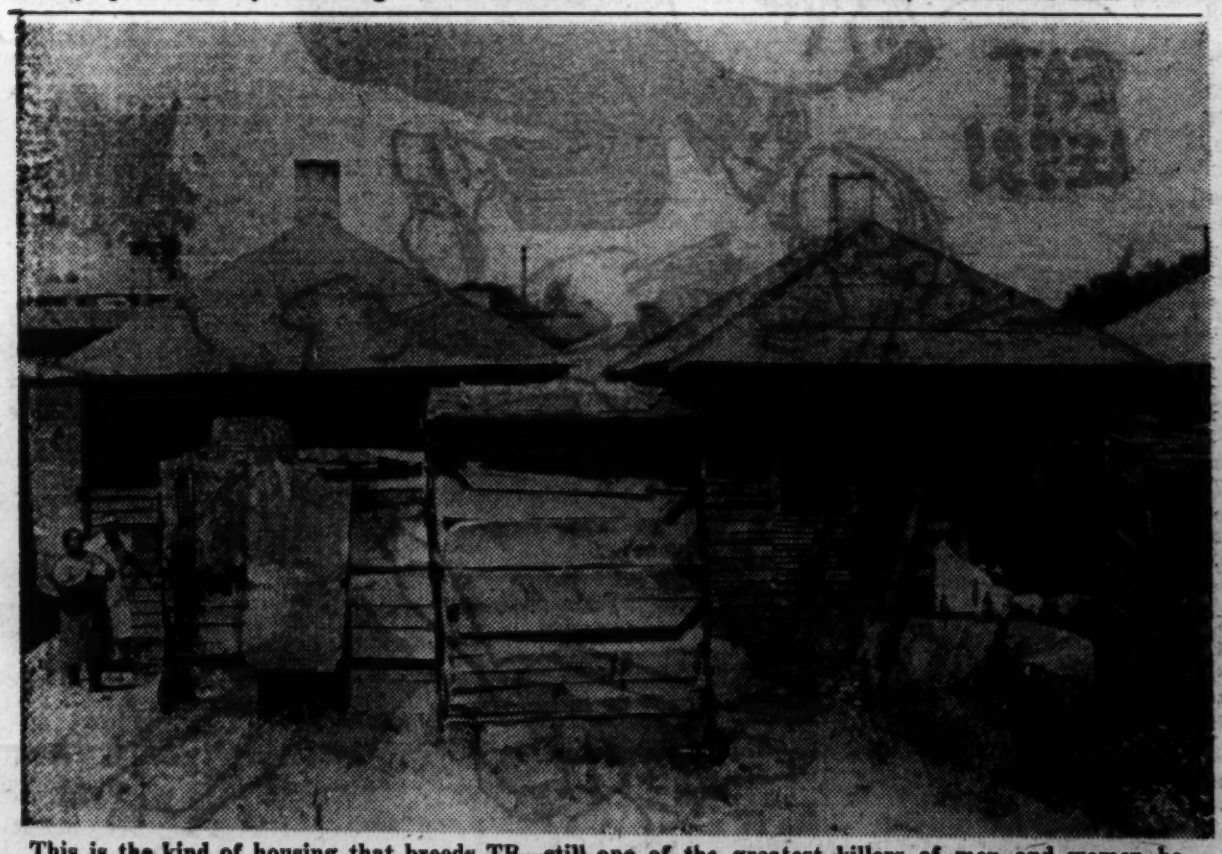
If the X-ray reveals just a spot on the lung, meaning a very minimal case, it may not be necessary to be hospitalized. But most often, going to a sanatorium is the best idea.

In some states, especially in the south, there aren't nearly enough beds available, but the situation is improving through new construction and through civilian use of surplus army hospitals. Public demand can help expand and improve facilities everywhere.

But tuberculosis will never be completely eliminated until poverty is wiped out. The basic preventive medicine against tuberculosis is a decent wage for every citizen, regardless of race, creed, or geographic location. Unions can do lots more to win this part of the battle than doctors.

FTA Aids Jews

President Donald Henderson this week denounced the reign of terror that British troops have been conducting against the Jewish people in Palestine. "This campaign is calculated to stir up the Arab people against the Jewish people for the sole purpose of dividing and ruling by Great Britain," Henderson said.



This is the kind of housing that breeds TB—still one of the greatest killers of men and women between 20 and 40. Picture shows houses of Negro workers in Tupelo, Miss.—Rankin's territory.

BUILD LOCALS DESPITE TAFT'S SLAVERY LAW

By John Tisa
Director of Organization

The number one task of FTA today is to consolidate the membership. In face of the Taft-Hartley Act which makes it easy for employers to attempt to disrupt and attack our unions we are obliged to strengthen our membership in every conceivable manner.

The first step in strengthening our locals is to bring every worker who is not a member of the union into our organization. This requires a special local organizing committee. In some cases full time organizers are required.

In Local 22, Winston-Salem, N. C., we have assigned three full time organizers to assist in consolidating the R. J. Reynolds plant. Jack Frye is in charge, assisted by International Organizers Mary Lou Koger and Fred Less. In this plant of 10,000 workers there are still 3,000 or 4,000 not in the union.

Another example of a big consolidation job for FTA is the assignment of a special organizer to the American Tobacco plant of Charleston S. C. International Organizer James Mignerey, with help from ran-and-file members, is already rolling members into Local 15. Consolidation of this one plant can add at least 700 more members to FTA.

An additional spot where the international is paying special attention is the large Pasco citrus plant in Dade City Florida. Regional Director John Lackner assisted by International Organizer John Kirby is spending full time in making sure that Pasco becomes 100 percent union. This local can be a real anchor for FTA in Florida. Successful work in these three plants can easily add 5,000 new members to FTA in the coming year.

However, regardless of the number of full time organizers the national office assigns they will be ineffective unless the work is accompanied by an organizational committee of rank and file workers. The best organizers are those on the inside who call upon their fellow workers to join the union.

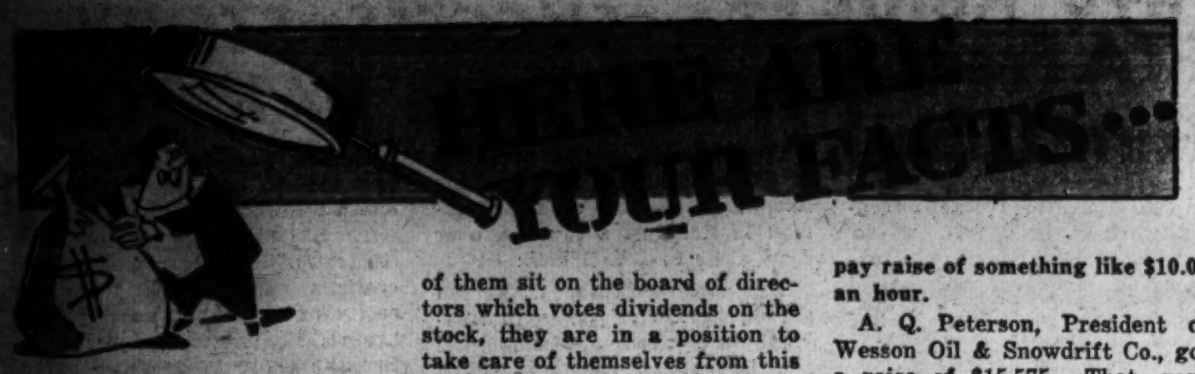
Shop stewards can contribute a great deal in organizing. A shop steward who takes up grievances and successfully settles them will soon find that he can make his department 100 percent union.

In consolidation work the organizers and organizing committee must beware of company tactics to sidetrack them from the main task of organing. "Divide and conquer" is the old Hitler rule. A favorite company tactic is to attempt to confuse issues by labeling action by the local union as "communism" or pinning the red label on certain militant and active union leaders. A membership which falls for this employer maneuver usually finds itself split, confused and easy pickings for the boss.

Another company favorite is the use of racial issues. A union is an organization which uses its economic strength to wring concessions from the employer for the benefit of all workers. Therefore there must be unity among all races to win the greatest concession from any employer.

An organizing committee which sets itself the task of consolidation and keeps its eye on the main ball with unity and militancy will be successful. This success will lead to a better contract in the next negotiations. Moreover, it will defeat those who want to use the Taft-Hartley Law as a weapon to destroy unions, lower wages, reverse working conditions to the good old Hoover days. It will build our locals on the sound trade union foundation of economic strength.

Now that we cannot depend on governmental laws to protect, we must develop our inherent economic power to protect ourselves. A local which is strong enough to stand on its own feet without the aid of the law is even in a better position to go forward with greater gains for its membership. Such a local will have greater security for itself, more confidence, and a passport to survival under the Taft-Hartley slave law. Let's consolidate!



The Gravy Train

By Joseph Califf
Research Director

The average person employed in the food manufacturing industries who worked the full year made $2,392 in 1946, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. In the tobacco industries, the earnings of full-time workers averaged $1,798 for the year.

These averages are higher than what most food and tobacco workers actually were paid. They include the earnings of salaried employees and do not take into account the much smaller total earnings of seasonal workers.

So it is reasonable to assume that most food workers made no more than $2,000 in 1946, and tobacco workers several hundred dollars less. This at a time when studies show that an income of more than $3,500 a year was needed to give a worker with a wife and two children a standard of living of minimum health and decency.

The bosses made out a little better last year. To get an idea of how much better, look at the table below. It shows how much salary, bonuses and other pay was taken home last year by the heads of some of the companies for which FTA members work. (Some of the figures cover the calendar year 1946 and others the company's fiscal year.)

Note, for example, Mr. Vincent Riggio, President of the American Tobacco Co., who drew $285,-669. Or Lamar Fleming, Jr., President of Anderson, Clayton & Co., who got $176,004.

And That's Not All

Many of these officials own large amounts of stock in the companies they head. Since most of them sit on the board of directors which votes dividends on the stock, they are in a position to take care of themselves from this angle also.

For instance, John Stuart, Chairman of the Board of the Quaker Oats Co., was on the payroll at $60,000 salary and bonus, but he drew an additional $36,662 in dividends on his 16,294 shares of Quaker Oats common stock.

S. Clay Williams, Chairman of the Board of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., in 1946 managed to stretch out his $100,000 salary with $29,750 in dividends on his Reynolds stock. James A. Gray, Chairman of the Reynolds Executive Committee, received $148,-750 in dividends on his 85,000 shares of Reynolds common stock. Added to his $50,000 salary, this gave him $198,750 for the year.

Lamar Fleming, Jr. pulled down over $290,000 in dividends on his shares of Anderson, Clayton stock—in addition, of course, to the $176,004 the company paid him in salary and commissions. This puts the total amount of money he got from the company last year up in the neighborhood of half a million dollars.

Bosses' Pay Raises in 1946

If you had any trouble winning a wage increase back in 1946, you may have thought that the bosses were opposed to pay raises. Not entirely, it seems, since they were generous in granting themselves raises. Take Mr. Bernhardt Meyer, President of General Cigar Co. He was only making $50,000 in 1945. So the Board of Directors, of which he is a member, gave him a $14,481 raise. That gave him $64,481 to help him meet the increase in the cost of living in 1946.

Donald Danforth, President of Ralston Purina Co., got a 58 per cent increase in salary in 1946, amounting to $226,625. This is a pay raise of something like $10.00 an hour.

A. Q. Peterson, President of Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co., got a raise of $15,575. That gave him a salary of $76,125.

The same story could be told for most of the officials on the list.

The Cream Goes to the Top

When you look at the list of how much is paid to all the directors and officers and other high paid executives of the big corporations, you see that the food and tobacco industries are low wage industries only for the workers, not the bosses.

In 1946, 38 top executives of Anderson, Clayton & Co. between them got $2,210,712 in salaries and commissions. Twenty officials of American Tobacco Co. received a total of $2,062,656—an average of $100,000 per man. This is as much money as was paid to more than 1,500 American Tobacco Co. workers earning 65c an hour.

Sixty-two Proctor & Gamble executives were paid $1,949,232—an average of about $31,500 each. The 17 directors of Reynolds Tobacco Co. got $485,125.

Maybe these are the men Senator Taft meant should "eat less" in order to lower prices. It's certainly clear they are among the few who can afford to eat more. These are the men who get tough with the union when it asks for a wage increase.

These are the men who through their enormous salaries, bonuses, commissions, and dividends are getting a larger and larger share of the national income while the workers are being squeezed between low wages and high prices.

(Note: *Any local which wants more facts about the salaries paid by any of the companies listed in the table can get them by writing to the Research Department.)*

(Continued on Page 8)

'LIVE WITH' TAFT-HARTLEY?

This story—taken from the experience of soya bean workers in Gibson City, Ill.—is especially meant for those people who think labor can "live with" the Taft-Hartley act. It may also profit those who swallowed the line about the boss' "freedom of speech" that was so much a part of the propaganda that put the Taft-Hartley act over in Congress.

The story begins with two plants of the Central Soya Co., one already under contract to FTA Local 44 in Decatur, Ill., the other, in Gibson City, unorganized. Under Local 44's contract, Decatur workers were getting $1.55 an hour tops, $1.12½ an hour floor. Before the union, the highest rate was 60c.

Gibson City soya workers, though they were getting the Decatur rates (due entirely to FTA pressure), also wanted the job security, seniority and regular promotions won at the Decatur plant. They asked FTA to come in and help them win.

Early in September, the company signed an agreement for an election—then the anti-union drive began. First, a letter was sent to all workers under the mask of "freedom of speech." The letter threatened dire things if the election went to FTA.

Next, the company sent emissaries to the merchants in Gibson City and neighboring towns. By word of mouth, they spread a fearsome "red scare" all over the community. One local banker published a letter to the effect that no more loans would be made if the workers voted FTA, and that existing loans would be harshly treated. Merchants warned the workers that credit would be withdrawn, if FTA won. Some even threatened to shut up shop and leave town if the plant went union.

The local newspaper screamed red at the union and at FTA leaders. Copies of a Life magazine article slandering FTA were distributed just before the election. Threats, rumors, lies about FTA were busily circulated by supervisors in the plant.

To no one's surprise, the vote went against FTA—144 for no union, 38 for FTA. Almost any one of these acts by itself would have been a violation of the old Wagner act, now repealed. Under the Taft-Hartley act, nothing can be done by appeal to the National Labor Relations Board.

Like most employers, however, the company is crowing too soon. The day following the election it fired Melvin Gibbens, one of the oldest employes in terms of seniority on the plant—and the workers are pretty sore about it, considering the fact that Gibbens was chairman of the organizing committee and they know a raw deal when they see one.

Organizing goes on, despite the phony election and the anti-union drive now legalized by Taft-Hartley. It remains a prime example, however, to those individuals who insist that labor "can live with" Taft-Hartley.

He Likes 'Em Rich

The millionaires of Wall Street have taken over American foreign policy, Henry A. Wallace has charged at recent nationwide mass meetings. Here's his proof:

"Working with a trained military secretary of state in formulating foreign policy," said Wallace, "we find:

"The undersecretary, Robert Lovett, a former partner in the Brown Brothers Harriman banking firm.

"The assistant secretary, Charles Saltzman, a former vice president of the New York Stock Exchange.

"The ambassador to England, Lewis Douglas, chairman of the board of the powerful Mutual Life Insurance Co.

"Then there is the defense secretary, Mr. James Forrestal, on leave as head of the Wall Street banking firm of Dillon Read Co., the secretary of commerce, W. Averill Harriman, chairman of the Brown Brothers Harriman firm, and the secretary of the treasury, John Snyder, a banker from St. Louis.

"Another product of Dillon Read, Maj. Gen. William Draper, has just returned from Germany to become the assistant secretary of war. Even the World Bank chief is a Wall Street Lawyer—John McCloy."

FTA On New Party Need

(Continued from Page 1)

exposed as the agents of the monopoly trusts against the welfare of the people.

In order to break the power of the trusts and return the government to the control of the people, we propose the following course of action by the workers and their allies among working farmers and white collar groups:

1. Independent political action with the basic aim of creating a political party, based on the people's needs and operated solely in their interests.

Such a people's party must be built through an active political alliance of all who exploit neither labor nor the people generally. Labor, as the strongest organized force for democracy, must take the lead in building such a party.

2. Full support of all CIO members and allies for CIO-PAC to create an independent political organization in every ward and precinct in the country. The drive for 1,000,000 volunteer PAC ward and precinct workers must be completed before the 1948 election campaign gets under way. The $1.00 PAC voluntary contribution must be secured from every CIO member as a minimum.

Building independent political organization in wards and precincts does not exclude use of Democratic or Republican party machinery where such use will serve the people's interest. In no sense, however, must labor political action be tied down to either of the major parties.

To secure the widest support for independent political action and for a people's party, we offer the following program to end inflation, head off an economic crisis and restore security and confidence to the American people:

1. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and all repressive laws directed against labor, including state laws.

2. Nationalization of the trusts that now exploit workers, farmers and consumers alike. Such trusts and all national resources must be returned to the people and run not for private profit but for the benefit of all.

The following industries and resources should be nationalized: coal, steel, utilities including water power, railroads, banks and communications.

Control of the processing and marketing of food and fiber must be assumed by the people to end the orgy of speculation and profiteering that is directly responsible for the high cost of living. The government must regulate such industries and take over commodity markets.

3. Foreign policy must turn from the dangers of war involved in the Truman doctrine, the Marshall plan and other plans for intervention against peaceful nations and must renew the policy of cooperation laid down by Franklin D. Roosevelt as the basis for a lasting peace.

Such a program, brought to the people by the labor movement through independent political action, will break the monopoly trusts that are now leading America toward inflation, economic crisis and world war III.

FTA on Food

(Continued from Page 1)

that consumers receive food at cost, allowing only a reasonable return on invested capital.

3. Federal, state and municipal governments must help farmers and consumers set up direct markets where food can be sold without profit by commission agents or other middlemen. Labor unions must take the lead in demanding such action of their local authorities, as has been successfully done in San Francisco, Newark and other centers.

4. So-called surplus food must be used to feed hungry people, both at home and abroad, without political strings attached. Destruction of crops must end. No crop can be considered surplus while people are in need of it.

5. Subsidies paid out of increased taxes on big incomes and corporate profits must be used wherever needed to reduce the cost of living. Such subsidies must go to working farmers, not to big growers.

6. Jail sentences must be given to violators of anti-trust laws and those guilty of conspiracy to raise the cost of living. Such action, however, is not to be considered a substitute for nationalization and strict government regulation of food trusts and monopolies.

7. Rationing of essential foods must be reinstated where necessary to prevent hoarding and to facilitate price control.

98 Gets 10c

A 10c an hour across the board wage increase, improved vacation plan and irrevocable check-off, were some of the gains won by members of Local 98 in a contract just signed with the Swift Cotton Oil Co. in Little Rock, Ark. The contract establishes a new high in minimum wages for the cotton oil industry in this city.

Report On PAC

Local 19 Steps Up Drive

FTA Local 19, Memphis, Tenn., has the angle on the need for the PAC contribution drive. To the members there, it turns on a basic dollars and cents issue—not how much a PAC contribution costs to give but how much it costs not to have effective union political activity.

As Washington O'Bannon, chairman of the local's steering committee put it: "We feel that all FTA members in Local 19 have now begun to see the effect on themselves of the political situation. We are all feeling the out-take from our wages since the political table was turned against the working people.

"In Memphis particularly we have a hard struggle ahead. But the struggle is not hard after the situation is understood by each and every working man and woman."

Local 19's PAC fund drive is now under way. A year-round program laid out includes: registration; payment of poll taxes; building of independent ward and precinct clubs and a drive to get out the vote election day, plus—and this is important in Boss Crump's territory—a tight setup to watch the polls and see that no ballots are stolen.

110 Organizes Precincts

FTA 110, United Cereal Workers of Cedar Rapids, Ia., is organizing its members both for the PAC contribution drive by departments in the plant and for follow-up political activity by precincts in which they live.

Reporting for the local, PAC Chairman Mervin Myers writes: "We have set up a top PAC steering committee, with myself as chairman and Frank Ross, Wallace Post and Agnes Vicko as members.

"We have divided our members into departments and every steward has a breakdown of his or her department in such a way that not a single member will be overlooked. That way the stewards are responsible for the members in each department.

"We have also divided our membership into precincts by a card index system. Responsible people in each precinct will see to it that all are registered and also will see to it that everybody votes. This will be done in cooperation with the Cedar Rapids CIO Council and with the Iowa State Council.

"All in all we expect to do a job in Iowa next election."

These and other plans, Chairman Myers reports, were drawn up both prior to and following a well attended PAC meeting at which the local heard FTA PAC Director Elizabeth Sasuly.

WALLACE TELLS CONTEMPT FOR UNAMERICAN COMMITTEE

Henry Wallace has "only contempt" for the House committee on unAmerican activities and doesn't hesitate to say so.

Hitting out at the unAmerican group, which tried to break FTA's strike at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem early this summer, Wallace said it is time to "strike back" at those who are whipping up hysteria against unions and liberals and trying to install "thought control" as in Nazi Germany and Japan.

Citing unAmerican attacks on government employes and other workers, Wallace said: "Human rights are more in peril in the U. S. today than at any time since the Civil War."

Meantime, the unAmerican committee wound itself up for a terrific attack on "red influence" among the movie queens in Hollywood. This bold move is expected to land the committee and its unAmerican members smack on the front page of all the newspapers, complete with leg shots of the movie stars and sexy hints of naughty doings in the movie capital.

The committee is expected to return to the more solid, if less glamorous, work of trying to smear unions and smash their unity later in the fall.

Editorial

What Price Probes?

The Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report—to give its long official title—is just about winding up its hearings on the cost of living. Labor, consumers, farmers, businessmen, have testified in a score of big cities and many smaller ones.

All except the businessmen pretty much agreed that the killing of price control and the profit hogging of industry are responsible for high prices and hardship.

All except the businessmen and some of the Congressmen on the committee—in the east especially, one Congressman Rich, a Pennsylvania Republican—who believes that "high wages" and "lack of production" are the only cause of high prices.

Rich set the keynote for this line in all the hearings of his section of the committee. Time after time he returned to the theme—"why can't labor PRODUCE more"—always winding up with an open attack on the Wage Hour act. If only we didn't have this 40 hour week, Rich said over and over again, we could produce more and thus lower prices.

Rich's attempt, of course, was to make people believe that the Wage Hour act prohibits anyone from working more than 40 hours a week. When that failed, he switched to an attack on time and a half pay for work over 40 hours a week. If only we would be willing to work more than 40 hours a week at straight time, we could produce more and prices—etc.

Rich is lying when he says the Wage Hour act prohibits more than 40 hours work a week. Ask any cannery worker, or any leaf-house worker, or any worker in a seasonal industry about that. Only last week FTA union leaders were told by Campbell Soup management that the workers had worked so hard during pack that many of them "would have to be laid off"—because they produced so much. Is the price of soup down? Ask your grocer.

It all adds up to the general drive against the meager standards set by the Wage Hour act. And Congressman Rich, who leads the attack in his committee, stands to profit if the attack is successful.

Look up Rich in the Congressional Directory. There you will find that he is director of three manufacturing concerns, secretary an dtreasurer of two and president of one bank and director of another.

Heard enough?

FTA Frees Farm Labor

An attempt to freeze migratory workers in Texas, where they could be mercilessly exploited by employers, was halted by prompt action of FTA in protesting to the U. S. Attorney-General recently.

The attempt was made when state authorities stopped migratory workers from crossing over into Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma in seach of work, FTA Regional Director Harry Koger reports.

"American citizens of Mexican origin engaged in agricultural work are reportedly being stopped by Texas state authorities, and forced to remain Texas against their will," Koger wired. "We strongly protest this fascist-like action and urgently request immediate indictment and the prosecution of the guilty."

Action to permit the workers to leave the state followed. This and other FTA work in the state has brought public praise from the Reverend Henry J. Hug, pastor of the St. Agnes Catholic Church in San Antonio, Tex., and from the editor of the Emancipator, liberal Texas magazine.

Tampa AFL Aids FTA

AFL cigar workers in Tampa, Fla., believe that solidarity is more than a word—and they've shown it by coming to the aid of their brother cigar workers in FTA-CIO.

The aid came when the La Primadora Cigar Company in New York served notice on FTA Local 273 that it would not sign any contract whatever after the present one expires October 31.

Acting in response to a plea from FTA Vice-President Armando Ramirez, the Tampa Cigar Makers Union passed a resolution of support to Local 273 and of condemnation of the company's attitude. The AFL union also asked all Tampa workers to stand by FTA in its struggle with La Primadora.

"This is real working class solidarity" VicePresident Ramirez said when the Tampa AFL informed him of its action.

"The support of FTA cigar workers by their fellow workers in the Tampa AFL is the kind of fighting unity that will defeat the union-busting tactics of La Primadora. I am sure that all FTA and CIO workers will welcome this practical sign of fraternal support from their brothers and sisters in the AFL."

88 WINS RAISE

Renewal of their contract with additional wage increases was won by Local 88 at the Spratt's Patent Ltd. Co., Newark, N. J., following a meeting with the New Jersey State Board of Mediation.

The company, manufacturers of animal food, agreed to reopen on wages again on March 1, 1948 if the cost of living index shows an increase of five percent or more—by that time.

BULLETIN

A four hour strike at the Memphis, Tenn. plant of the Cudahy Refinery Co. (cotton oil) brought a contract with a 10 cent raise and other gains to members of Local 19, FTA-CIO.

The contract runs for two years, with a wage reopener and an irrevocable checkoff.

FTA SUCCESS STORY—HOW PAC PAID OFF

Vic Anderson, acting president of FTA Local 47, Libby's Blue Island, Ill., is one of six aldermen in Robbins, a town of over 4,000 close to Blue Island.

This is how Brother Anderson got elected: The people in Robbins were tired of Democratic and Republican machines which had brought them nothing; the sewer and water systems were terrible and nothing was being done about it. So various community groups, together with over 100 workers from the Libby plant who live in Robbins began working.

They organized an independent Progressive Party, went out in the streets and house to house and got the signatures on petitions needed to put this party on the ballot in the city elections last spring.

The Progressive Party in Robbins ran three men for the three vacancies on the board of aldermen. All three were elected and all three are working people: Vic Anderson, worker at Libby's, and two others, one an electrician, one a mechanic.

They had a tough election fight; the Republican and Democratic machines fought them directly and also put up a phony "veterans" slate to split the vote. But the three progressive party candidates won on a program of better government to meet the peoples' needs. They had the support of ministers, small business men's organizations and local clubs.

The Progressives are looking forward to taking the three remaining aldermanic seats in 1949 and also to replacing the mayor. At present they are in a minority, but they are fighting on the issues. One of their recent battles was against the mayor's request for a new police squad car. The Progressives thought a fire truck was needed worse than extra police equipment. They haven't won that one yet, but they are taking their case to the people of Robbins.

JUNK ANTI-FTA SUIT

An injunction sought by employers against FTA Local 78 has been junked in the Superior Court in Fresno, California. The injunction plea alleged that Local 78 members discriminated against Japanese workers by refusing to work alongside them and that the local promoted "violence" on the picketline.

The injunction was quickly denied when Local 78 produced affidavits showing that its policy and practice was opposed to discrimination, and that the alleged strike had been a lockout imposed by the melon packing company, Ensher, Alexander and Barsoom, when an anti-FTA maneuver failed.

THE GRAVY TRAIN

(Continued from Page 7)

Salaries and Other Compensation of Top Officials of Food and Tobacco Companies Organized by FTA

CIGARS			
Consolidated Cigar Corp.	Alfred M. Silberman, Pres.		$ 50,000
DWG Cigar Corp.	S. T. Gilbert, Pres. and Gen. Mgr.		67,560
General Cigar Co.	Bernhardt G. Meyer, Pres.		64,481
D. Emil Klein	D. Emil Klein, Chairman of Board		31,040
Webster Tobacco Co.	Everett Meyer, Pres.		40,240
OTHER TOBACCO			
American Tobacco Co.	Vincent Riggio, Pres.		285,669
P. Lorillard Co.	Herbert A. Kent, Pres.		72,780
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.	S. Clay Williams, Chmn. of Board		100,000
U. S. Tobacco Co.	J. W. Peterson, Pres.		49,800
Universal Leaf Tob. Co.	H. R. Pettus, Vice-Pres.		86,430
CANNING			
California Packing Corp.	A. W. Eames, Pres.	(1945)	50,270
Campbell Soup Co.	Arth. C. Dorrance, Pres. (deceased)	(1945)	99,000
Consolidated Grocers Corp. (owns Reid Murdoch & Co. and Marshall Canning Co.)	Nathan Cummings, Pres.		50,000
Hunts Foods, Inc.	Norton Simon, Chmn. of Board		72,750
Libby, McNeill & Libby	Daniel W. Creeden, Pres. and Gen. Mgr.		67,500
Stokely-Van Camp, Inc.	William B. Stokely, Jr., Pres.		92,519
COTTONSEED OIL, ETC.			
Anderson-Clayton Co.	Lamar Fleming, Jr., Pres.		176,004
Armour & Co.	George A. Eastwood, Pres.		105,242
Cudahy Packing Co.	E. A. Cudahy, Chmn. of Board		60,150
Proctor & Gamble Co. (owns Buckeye Cotton Oil Co.)	Richard R. Deupree, Pres.		178,049
Swift & Co.	John Holmes, Pres.		89,904
Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co. (owns Southern Cotton Oil Co.)	A. Q. Peterson, Pres.		76,125
DAIRY			
Beatrice Foods Co.	Clinton H. Haskell, Pres.		111,250
Nat'l Dairy Products Corp. (owns Kraft Foods)	L. A. Van Bomel, Pres.		120,620
GRAIN			
Allied Mills, Inc.	H. J. Buist, Pres. and Chairman of Board		40,700
Archer-Daniels-Midland	S. M. Archer, Pres.		70,000
Central Soya Co., Inc.	D. W. McMillen, Chmn. of Board		42,000
Penick & Ford, Ltd.	J. H. Lind, Jr., Vice-Pres.		35,988
Pillsbury Mills, Inc.	Philip W. Pillsbury, Pres.		41,222
Quaker Oats Co.	John Stuart, Chmn. of Board		60,000
Ralston-Purina Co.	Donald Danforth, Pres.		61,925
MISCELLANEOUS FOOD			
The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co.	O. C. Adams, Director	(1945)	100,121
General Foods Corp.	Clarence Francis, Chmn. of Board		136,466
Standard Brands, Inc.	James S. Adams, Pres.		150,000
Planters Nut and Chocolate Co.	A. Obici, Pres. (deceased)	(1945)	223,000